

Message Text

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ACTION EA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 PRS-01 /005 W

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O R 280935Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3178

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

SECDEF WASHDC

UNCLAS PHNOM PENH 10420

USINFO ALSO FOR VOA NEWSROOM

USINFO ALSO FOR IEA

BANGKOK FOR HEDGES

BANGKOK AND SAIGON FOR VOA CORRESPONDENTS

STATE S/PRS AND EA/P

CAMBODIAN SITUATIONER

1. EARLY FRIDAY MORNING, TWO TERRORISTS ON A MORTORCYCLE THREW A HAND GRENADE AT A POLICE GUARD POST NEAR A DOWNTOWN PHNOM PENH MOVIE HOUSE. ONE POLICEMAN AND SIX CIVILIANS WERE WOUNDED BY THE BLAST. THE TERRORIST ESCAPED. IN ANOTHER INCIDENT, A VISITOR TO A CENTRALLY-LOCATED PAGODA DISCOVERED A HAND GRENADE WITH THE FIRING PIN PARTIALLY WITHDRAWN. HE CALLED POLICE WHO DISARMED THE GRENADE. CAMBODIANS ARE NOW CELEBRATING A THREE-DAY HOLIDAY, PRACHUM BEN, FESTIVAL OF THE DEAD, WHEN TERRORISTS TRADITIONALLY INCREASE THEIR ACTIVITIES.

2. MINOR GROUND PROBES HAVE BEEN REPORTED AGAINST THE KOMPONG CHAM AIRPORT DEFENDERS DURING THE PAST TWO NIGHTS BUT THERE HAVE BEEN NO CASUALTIES OR DAMAGE. ALL PROBES HAVE BEEN REPULSED.

3. THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTS OF FURTHER PROGRESS IN
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ROAD-CLEARING OPERATIONS ON EITHER ROUTE 4 OR 5.

4. AT KAMPOT NEAR THE SEA, FANK UNITS WHICH HAD OCCUPIED POSITIONS TO THE WEST OF THE CITY IN A PERIMETER EXPANSION OPERATION WERE TEMPORARILY CUT OFF BY COMMUNIST TROOPS. GOVERNMENT REINFORCEMENTS, HOWEVER, WERE ABLE TO LINK UP WITH THE CUT-OFF TROOPS AND REESTABLISH THE POSITIONS.

5. IN OTHER FIGHTING AROUND THE COUNTRY, FANK SOURCES SAID THAT 20 ENEMY MORTAR ROUNDS FELL ON TWO POSITIONS NORTHEAST OF PREY VENG THURSDAY. AT SVAY RIENG, A FANK UNIT PATROLLING TO THE WEST OF THE CITY EXPLODED A MINE AND ONE FANK SOLDIER WAS WOUNDED. AND AT PREK TAMEAK NORTH-EAST OF PHNOM PENH, A GOVERNMENT SWEEP TO THE SOUTH OF THE TOWN ENGAGED THE COMMUNIST WHO LOST THREE KILLED.

6. A TEN-SHIP CONVOY FROM PHNOM PENH TO KOMPONG CHAM THURSDAY CAME UNDER COMMUNIST FIRE FROM BOTH BANKS OF THE MEKONG ABOUT HALFWAY BETWEEN THE TWO CITIES BUT IS CONTINUING ON ITS WAY WITH NO REPORT OF DAMAGE OR CASUALTIES. AND A FIVE-SHIP KHMER NAVY CONVOY LEFT PHNOM PENH FRIDAY MORNING FOR PREY VENG WHERE IT ARRIVED AT NOON. A COMMUNIST ATTACK ENROUTE RESULTED IN LIGHT CASUALTIES AMONG THE CREW.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PHNOM10420
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973093/aaaaacal.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 01 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01-Oct-2001 by maustmc>; APPROVED <01-Nov-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PINS
To: n/a
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005